

Amendments to the Specification

Kindly amend the specification by inserting the following into the specification as indicated.

On Page 4, replace the Description of the Drawings with the following:

Description of the Drawings

For the purpose of illustrating the invention, there is shown in the drawings a form that is presently preferred; it being understood, however, that this invention is not limited to the precise arrangements and instrumentalities shown.

Figures 1, 1a, and 1b are schematic views of the present invention.

Figure 2 is an elevational view of the present invention.

Figure 2a is an elevational view of another embodiment of the present invention.

Figure 3 is an elevational view of the de-registration mechanism of the present invention.

Figure 4 is an elevational view of the shaping and particulate distribution mechanisms of the present invention.

Figure 5 is an isometric view of the particulate distribution mechanism of the present invention.

Figures 6a, 6b, 6c, and 6d are elevational views of a portion of the particulate distribution mechanism of the present invention.

*Replace the paragraph bridging Pages 9 and 10 with the following:*

De-registering apparatus 40, which is preferably contained within cabinet 38, has at least two pairs of rollers 42 and 48. In de-registration, the individual crimped filaments of the tow are de-registered (or opened) and prepared for shaping. Roller pair 42 has a metal-faced roller 44 and a rubber-faced roller 46 (rubber-faced refers to any elastic polymer). Roller pair 48 also has a metal-faced roller 50 and a rubber-faced roller 52 (rubber-faced refers to any elastic polymer). The metal-faced rollers are driven and have diameters of 160 mm. The rubber-faced rollers have diameters of 250 mm. The pair of rollers 42 and 48 may be vertically oriented (as shown), horizontally oriented, or at some angle therebetween. Metal-faced rollers 48 and 50 may be smooth, grooved, threaded, textured, or combinations thereof. When grooved or threaded, the ratio of open surface to flat surface may nominally range from 90:10 to 10:90, preferably with 25:75; 50:50; and 75:25, and most preferred, 75:25. The rubber-faced rollers are

preferably placed opposite one another in the pairing as shown, but they may be disposed on the same side (Fig. 2a), preferably on the side closest to apparatus 54, so that fibers in the tow do not foul in the open surface of the metal rollers. The nip pressure between each roller pairs 42 and 48 is two (2) bars with a 70 mm diameter pressure cylinder. The roller pair 48 has greater surface speed than roller pair 42. When cellulose acetate tow is used, the ratio of roller speed for pair 48 ( $S_{48}$ ) to pair 42 ( $S_{42}$ ) may range from  $1 \leq S_{48}/S_{42} \leq 2$ , and  $S_{48}/S_{42}$  is preferably 1.1 - 1.7, and most preferred 1.3 - 1.4.